(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to create a central registry for the hospitals and the diagnostic centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS) (a) to (d) Enactment of a Legislation for registration & regulation of Clinical Establishments is a priority of the Government.

Since health is a State subject, maintenance of registry of hospitals and the diagnostic centres is the responsibility of the State Governments.

Closer of Rural and Cottage Industries in Karnataka

2029. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the condition of traditional rural and cottage industries has been deteriorating and these industries are on the verge of closure, especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to im prove their conditions and the extent to which Government have succeeded in improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The performance of village industries throughout the country, including Karnataka, has shown marked improvement and their condition has not deteriorated. The details of growth in the value of production and sales of the village industry sector as well as employment, in Karnataka as well as the country as a whole, during each of the last three years are given below:

Year	Production (Rs. crore)		Sales (Rs. crore)		Employment (lakh persons]	
	Karnataka	Country as a whole	Karnataka	Country as a whole	Karnataka	Country as a whole
2003-04	791.80	9228.27	870.60	10988.17	2.42	62.58
2004-05	844.71	10458.89	944.23	12487.35	2.64	68.14
2005-06	921.92	11915.54	1059.39	14647.33	2.91	74.09

Some Village Indsutry units/self-employment ventures do suffer losses and close down. The reasons for such losses include use of obsolete technology, inconsistent quality of products, product design not being in keeping with market demand, lack of entrepreneurial and managerial skills, etc.

(c) Existing Village industry units/self-employment ventures, which were set up with credit from banks but become sick, are eligible for rehabilitation assistance available to sick units in the small scale industries sector, as per the guidelines of the Reserve bank of India (RBI). These measures include, *inter alia,* waiver of penal interest on cash credit and term loan from the year the unit started making cash losses, segregation of unpaid interest on cash credit and term loan from the total liability and treating the former amount as a separate interest-free loan, reduced rate of interest (reduction of up to 3 per cent for tiny units) to be charged on unpaid term loans, additional working capital loans to be given at a rate of interest not exceeding the prime lending rate, etc.

Further, based on the 'Policy Package for Stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises' announced by the Government in the Parliament on 10 Agusut 2005, the RBI has issued guidelines on 8 September 2005 to all public sector banks that envisage debt restructuring mechanism for nursing sick small and medium enterprises back to health.

Plasma Fortification Unit

2030. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up its Plasma Fortification Unit to provide life saving F8 and F9 protein to patients suffering from Haemophilia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be operational;

(c) the number of patients in need of life saving protein and the production capacity of the unit; and

(d) whether the protein would be supplied free of cost or otherwise by the unit itself or through Government hospitals?